

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract as being too detailed and not describing the disclosure sufficiently clearly. The Abstract has been revised to obviate this objection.

Claims 1-20 are pending, including independent claims 1, 2, 14 and 19. All claims except claim 13 are rejected on the basis of prior art. Claim 13 is objected to, but was found to contain patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-4, 14-15 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,890,122 ("Van Kleeck"). Van Kleeck, assigned to Microsoft, describes a method and system for providing instructions to an application program on a computer in response to spoken commands by a user (e.g., Abstract). When the user activates a particular application, the system provides a list of available commands.

As general background, claim 1 recites a method that, inter alia, detects the operation of a device by a user, searches for a stored speech input command available for the device, and provides the user with guidance regarding the searched speech input. Independent claim 2 is a similar device claim, but the stored speech input commands are categorized by device operation type. The user can be provided with the speech input guidance by speech and/or by displaying it on a screen (e.g. claim 3).

Claim 1 has been amended to additionally specify that the speech input guidance to be provided to the user is stopped if the speech input guidance would interfere with an audio or image output of an operated device. Applicant submits that claim 1 as amended is not disclosed in Van Kleeck. Independent claim 2 has been amended to add the content of dependent claim 13 (and intervening claim 5), which has been found to be patentable. Claim 13 has been cancelled.

Claim 15 recites, inter alia, that when a speech input executing command indicates only one of an operation object and the content of an operation, the device provides to the user a speech input executing command corresponding to the other. This feature is described, e.g., at page 30, line 25 to page 31, line 31 of the application and is not disclosed by Van Kleeck. Independent claim 14 has been amended to include the content of claim 15, and claim 15 has been cancelled.

Independent claim 19 has been amended to include a feature that speech input executing commands are prioritized according to frequency of use. This is described in the application, e.g., at pg. 33, line 17 to pg. 34, line 20, and also is not disclosed in Van Kleeck.

Claims 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Van Kleeck in view of U.S. Patent 4,766,529 (“Nakano”). Nakano describes a voice-controlled computer that provides operator guidance from a speech synthesizer section 7. When the operator depresses a key in the key input section 1 while the operator guidance is being audibly produced, the operator guidance is stopped. (See, e.g., Abstract; col. 2, lines 46-48, 59-68).

Claim 5 has been amended to be independent and to specify that “speech input guidance is stopped when the speech input guidance controlling unit provides an output for stopping the speech input guidance if the speech input guidance would interfere with an audio or image output of an operated device.” This feature is not suggested by Van Kleeck or Nakano. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 5 and dependent claims 6-10 be withdrawn. In addition, the explanation of the Examiner’s rejection of dependent claim 9 does not address the feature recited in the claim, so that this rejection should be withdrawn for this additional reason.

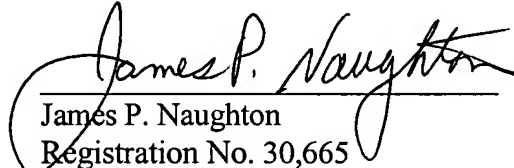
Claims 11-12 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Nakano and Van Kleeck in view of U.S. Patent 6,560,576 (“Cohen”). However, Applicant submits that claim 5 as amended above is patentable over the cited art, so that dependent claims 11 and 12 are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to be in independent form. Applicant submits that claims 17 and 18 recite features that are not suggested by the cited prior art (e.g., changing the order of guidance according to output count information in claim 17, and providing a guidance output in a different form depending on a count in claim 18).

Dependent claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Van Kleeck in view of U.S. Patent 5,386,494 (“White”). However, Applicant submits that because claim 14 as amended is believed to be patentable as explained above, dependent claim 16 is patentable for at least the same reasons.

In summary, Applicant submits that the claims as amended herein are patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


James P. Naughton
Registration No. 30,665
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200